



October 20, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

Office of the General Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at Reception and Dinner,
October 21, 2004, at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

On October 21, 2004, the Director, National Air and Space Museum, will host a dinner and reception at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (Center), companion facility to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, located at the Washington Dulles International Airport. It has been determined to be in the best interests of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to these events to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The event will be widely attended by individuals from other Federal agencies, members of Congress and their staffers, the military, academia, and those who share an interest in aviation and aeronautics. Approximately 150 guests are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is approximately \$100 per person.

The event will mark the preview of the space hangar at the Center named for James S. McDonnell, aeronautical engineer and industrialist. The company he built produced the Mercury Space Capsule (America's first manned spacecraft) and the Gemini spacecraft. Artifacts representing human spaceflight, including the Space Shuttle Enterprise, rocketry, space sciences, and satellite applications, will be exhibited in the Space Hangar. This event will allow NASA employees and other guests to commemorate the history of space flight and NASA's role in it. In view of NASA's interest in disseminating information about the history of the Space Program, I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2645.204(g). I therefore conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend this event without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon", written over a horizontal line.

R. Andrew Falcon